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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 22, 2002

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for November 22, 2002. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICS, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS  
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2. ANTI-HIZBULLAH OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST (Cumhuriyet) Six hundred nineteen Hizbullah suspects were arrested during 333 anti-Hizbullah operations carried out in the Southeast over the first ten months of the year. Of these, 228 were ordered to remain in custody. Officials have reported a decrease in the number of anti-Hizbullah operations and the number of Hizbullah suspects arrested in these operations.

3. HIZBULLAH SUSPECT CONVICTED (Bolge) Adana State Security Court convicted Halil Bezek, arrested during a June 2000 anti-Hizbullah operation in Mersin, for "terror organization membership" and sentenced him to a prison term of 12 years and six months.

4. AGAR RE-JOINS DYP (Turkiye) MP Mehmet Agar, who was elected as an Independent from Elazig, re-joined the True Path Party (DYP), changing the make-up of the Parliament. With Agar as a DYP member again, DYP is also in the Parliament now being represented by Agar only. Recent MP distribution is as follows: Justice and Development Party - AKP (363), the Republican People's Party - CHP (178), DYP (1) and Independent (8).

5. MAYOR ARRESTED FOR THEFT (Evrensel) Siirt's Aydinlar district Mayor Behcet Kavun, together with the Motherland Party (ANAP) Aydinlar president and six municipal employees, was arrested for having stolen the Turkish Electricity Distribution Corporation's (TEDAS) electricity poles. The arrestees will reportedly be taken to the Aydinlar Prosecutor's Office later today (11/22).

6. HADEP PUNISHES UNFAITHFUL MEMBERS (Evrensel) The People's Democracy Party (HADEP) Van Disciplinary Council suspended four of its municipal council members of the Bostanici (Van) municipality. The suspension followed the council members' de facto assaults against the municipality, physical assault against the mayor, impeding of municipal activities, discussion of municipal activities outside the municipality, and filing complaints to the Governor's Office, which in turn initiated an investigation against the municipality.

ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS  
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7. GAP PROJECT FOREIGNERS' FAVORITE (Turkiye) According to the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) - Entrepreneur Support and Guidance Center (GIDEM), seven of the seventeen firms which had made investments in the GAP region were U.S. firms. Other foreign firms with investments in the region are from Germany (2), Italy (2), Switzerland (2), Israel (1), Iraq (1), Syria (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Iran (1), Spain (1) and Bulgaria (1). (Note: When the number of firms reported are added up, the number exceeds

17.) GIDEM officials said many firms were also preparing to make investments in the region, while eight (foreign) firms have begun production. These entrepreneurs serve in the field of irrigation pipes, yarn spinning, and petroleum. An American firm is reportedly carrying out feasibility studies to establish a solar energy plant that will generate electricity from solar energy, while some other U.S. businessmen are working on a multi-faceted agricultural project in the region.  
HOLTZ